THE PARLIAMENT OF GRACES;

Briefly ſhewing

The baniſhment of *Peace*, the farewell of *Amity*, the want of *Honeſty*, the diſtraction of *Religion*, the flight of *Sobriety*, the lamentation of *Patience*, the love and care of *Charity*.

Together

With the cauſe of the breaking up of the Houſe of the Parliament of Graces; worthy the reading in theſe times of deſolation and calamity.

By *Humfrey Crouch*

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THE PARLIAMENT OF GRACES.

The names of them that are present in this Parliament.

Patience;
Hope,
Humility.
Obedience,
Charitie.

The names of them that have absented themselues in this times of distraction, are these:

Peace,
Amity
Honesty,
Religion,
Sobriety,

And first of all distressed Pacience *speake,*
And unto all the rest her mind she breakes,

Patience.

DIstressed Brethren, for so many I terme you: Our House is divided, as is the Kingdome: *Peace* is fled. For where there is warre, there is no roome for *Peace*. *A-*

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mity taken her leave of us: for where there is dissention among brethren, there can bee no love nor amitie abiding.

As for *Honesty*, she left us long agoe; before these warres began, because shee could not finde an honest man.

As for *Religion*, she hath been so cust and beaten by the *Nonconformists* and *Separatists* of these times, that she hath absented her selfe from us for a time, to see what the end of these things will be; notwithstanding she hath a hope that the King and Parliament will not see her quite troden under feet: and when it shall please God that the King and Parliament accord together, then will shee fly unto them for succour.

Sobriety seeing swords drawne in Churches, and *Religion* put to flight, was ashamed to stay among such uncivill and unnaturall people. But stay, who comes here? Our old friend *Honesty*: alas poore wretch, thou departedst in an ill time, and art returned in a worse.

Honesty.

Brethren, how fare you?

Patience.

What? Our old friend *Honesty*? what, goe away from us in an ill time, and returne againe in a worse? alasse! here is no imployment for thee. I tell thee what, since thou tookest thy leave of us last, our kingdome hath been altogether by the eares.

Honesty.

I am sorry to heare it; but where are all the rest of our brethren? Me thinkes your number is very small. What's become of our old friend *Peace*, the quietest wretch that ever was knowne.

Patience

Alas! our poore friend *Peace* was beaten out of the Kingdome by a malignant party, they call him *Discord*, a very Rascall, one that hath set all the Kingdome together by the eares; and there is no hope of her returne till the King and Parliament agree.

Honesty.

But where is *Amity*?

Patience.

I tell thee *Honesty*, *Amity* tooke her leave of *England*, and of us, iust about the time our Queene tooke her leave of the King, only she left some of her garments behinde her; which in her absence, the more is the pitty, hath beene so stained in blood, that all the water in the river of *Thames* is not able to cleanse the staines of so deep a Die.

Honesty.

The more is the pitty. But where is my kinde friend *Charity*? *Patience.*

Oh *Charity*! although she be not here with us, yet she is one of our Court, and one of our Counsell; and although she was very fearfull to stay in the kingdome, and was once minded to leave the Kingdome; but that she feared, that if she went, the Kingdome couldnot stand, she resolved then not onely to stay, but to doe the best service shee could for the common good of the weale publicke; and to this end got a Frock, and turned Porter, and carries in every day whole baskets of plate and money, to maintaine a warre, as I heare, in defence of the Gospell.

Honesty.

Why are you in any feare, or have you a iealousie of the King? *Patience.*

No, but of some that are about him, as Papists, and di-

vers ill-affected persons, that may perhaps divert the King from what he is, or keep him from what hee should bee, so that *Charity* takes not this Porters paines to maintaine a warre against the King, but against them that keep his Majesty from his Parliament.

Honesty.

That is one way, but faire meanes is another way, and a safer way to stay the effusion of blood; for in such a war the father kils the son, the sonne kils the father, one friend kils another. Ah poore England! there is strange alterations since I was here last.

Patience.

Alas brother! you say true, but it can no way be helpt, but by taking up Armes, the more is the pitty, all the faire meanes that could possibly be used, have beene put in execution, both by petition, perswadement, and what not: and shall the Parliament suffer the Countrey to bee ruined, and the City spoiled by those malignant persons of his side, and not seeke to prevent it? No, the lawfulnesse of the cause proves the lawfulnesse of warre, though of it selfe unlawfull and unnaturall.

Honesty.

But all this while where is *Religion* the pillar of the Church then?

Patience.

O poore soule! almost distracted: shee runnes from the Parliament to the King, and from the King to the Parliament with these words, *Have pitty, have pitty upon me my friend, lest my glory be eclipsed, and my honour lye in the dust.*

Honesty.

Why hath her old Patrons the Bishops failed her and given

given her three slips for a teaster.

Patience.

No honesty, but she finding them dishonest unto her did petition unto the Honourable House of Parliament that they would be so pleased to turne them out of her service. *Honesty.*

And have they done so.

Patience.

Yes truely in that they did very iustly, and very honourably: As for *Canterbary* he would have given all Lawde to the Pope: and the Pope to the divell, but the Parliament stopped his passage.

Honesty.

But there was a little great bird there called *wren*, Pray what is become of him? I remember, I once asked a service at his doore; and after he heard my name was honesty, he gave me a kick, and bid me be packing: and then I thought it was time to leave England, when the pillars of the Church refused me.

Patience.

O that bird the *Ren*, though the least of birds; yet the highest in ambition. I tell thee what *Honesty*, Because he would have bin highest; strived to sit upon the Roman Eagles back, but the Parliament clipped his wings.

Honesty.

But hath Religion any hope of being established again? to her former dignity by consent of king and Parliament.

Patience.

The King puts her in good comfort, and doth protest

as his Father before him was so is he, (*Semper eadem*) one and the self same, *Defeader* of the self same Faith: and bids her be of good comfort: For He is fully resolved to venture his estate, life, liberty and all, before He will see her suffer the least iniury that may be: The Parliament assures her of the same.

Honesty.

Then why is not the thing done, since both parties are greed. what is the seanon on't

Patience.

O Sir, to tell you the the truth; there are adverse parties of both sides, which hinders the cause, and keepes the work unfinished: For first the strongest and most ableſt Papists in the land are of the Kings side, and keepes him from his Parliament: secondly there are a many, who out of a blinde zeale cry out no Bishops, no this thing, no that thing, as if His Maiesty and and the Parliament understood not what they did without their directions: so the Papists gives offence one way, and these theot her way, and what setled peace are we like to have still God turne these Achithophels wisdoms unto foolishnesse.

Honesty.

But pray how stands the City affected to Religion?

Patience.

With a full resolution.

Honestie.

Then I perceive this is a place of abiding for me, if they entertaine *Religion*, they will also enterraine *Honesty*: with hat the whole Courtrose, and all with one voyce cryed, *Lord, put an end to these sinfull dayes*; and shaking hands said, *The world is at an end.* And so I end.

FINIS.